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Dated: 2/20/07 Signature: (Kathryn L. Nash)

Docket No.: 65937-0037
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Joseph L. Mark et al.

Application No.: 10/649,068

Confirmation No.: 4645

Filed: August 27, 2003

Art Unit: 3737

For: INTRODUCTION SYSTEM FOR MINIMALLY INVASIVE SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS

Examiner: R. S. Smith

AMENDMENT IN RESPONSE TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION

MS Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

In response to the Office Action dated October 18, 2006, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 14 of this paper.